

**Welcome to Church of Christ**  
**January 5, 2025 ~ Second Sunday after Christmas & Communion**  
*We are honored to worship God with you today!*

**Prelude**      *O Hail This Brightest Day of Days* - J. S. Bach

**Call to Worship** (inspired by Psalm 8)

~Jake Green

**Leader:** O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

**People:** **You have set your glory above the heavens.**

**Leader:** When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars that you have established;

**People:** **What are humans that you are mindful of them,  
mortals that you care for them?**

**Leader:** Yet you have made them a little lower than God  
and crowned them with glory and honor.

**People:** **You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;  
you have put all things under their feet.**

**Leader:** All sheep and oxen, beasts of the field,  
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea.

**People:** **O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

**Silent Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer (trespasses/debts)**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses (debts), as we forgive those who trespass against us (our debtors). And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

**Hymn 695**      *As We Gather at Your Table*

*(Worship and Rejoice)*

Vs 1 As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word, help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred. Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own; teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's victory known.

Vs 3 Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life; send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife. Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgive; may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

Vs 4 Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least. There no more will envy bind us nor will pride our peace destroy, as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

**Celebration of the Lord's Supper**

All are welcome to partake. Grape juice, not wine, is served.

**Invitation**

## **Consecration and Service**

**Prayer of Gratitude (unison)** – Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace. Amen.

**Scripture:** Luke 2:41-52

~Jake Green

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents were unaware of this. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously looking for you." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them, and his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favor.

**Sermon** "Curiosity as Love"

**Hymn 231** *Arise Your Light Is Come!*

Vs 1 Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey; show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.

Vs 2 Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door; proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Vs 3 Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born, bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Vs 4 Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song! Rise up like eagles on the wing, God's power will make us strong.

**Light of Service** *Shining Hope for Communities (SHOFCO)* ~Liz Allyn

We have a chance to offer financial gifts in support of Spirit-led work. Undesignated gifts go to the recipient named above. Please use the white envelopes in the pews to designate giving otherwise. There is no obligation, and we always welcome prayers for our LOS recipients. Thank you!

**Offertory** *Once in Royal David's City* - arr. G. Lachenauer

**Doxology** (two versions are offered) Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.

Amen. OR: Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### **Prayer of Dedication**

### **Sharing Joys and Church Life Updates**

### **Sharing Prayer Concerns**

### **Silent Prayer and Meditation**

### **Pastoral Prayer**

### **Hymn 118    *Lord of the Dance***

(Worship and Rejoice)

Vs 1 I danced in the morning when the world was begun, and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth. At Bethlehem I had my birth. Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. And I'll lead you all where ever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

Vs 2 I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee, but they would not dance and they would not follow me; I danced for the fishermen, for James and John; they came with me and the Dance went on. Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. And I'll lead you all where ever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

Vs 3 I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame, the holy people said it was a shame; they whipped and they stripped and they hung me on high; and they left me there on a cross to die. Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. And I'll lead you all where ever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

Vs 4 I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black; it's hard to dance with the devil on your back; they buried my body and they thought I'd gone, but I am the Dance and I still go on. Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. And I'll lead you all where ever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

Vs 5 They cut me down and I leapt up high, I am the life that'll never, never die; I'll live in you if you live in me; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. And I'll lead you all where ever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

### **Our Common Commission**

Let us go forth into the world in peace, being of good courage, holding fast to that which is good, rendering to no one evil for evil, strengthening the faint-hearted, supporting the weak, helping

the afflicted, honoring all persons, loving and serving the Lord, and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## **Benediction**

**Postlude**     *From Heaven Above to Earth I Come* - J. S. Bach

Please remain seated to listen or depart quietly.

**We gladly list these prayer concerns** and ask you to keep us apprised of any updates so that we have the most current information. If you would like a pastoral visit please call or email Pastor Erick (860-303-0910, [reverendole@gmail.com](mailto:reverendole@gmail.com)).

Members needing our prayers: Patty Cammilletti; Steven, Tina & Aaliyah Chausse; Linda Creedon; Bonnie Greenwood; Holly Kelsey; Will Kelsey; Arlene Patten; Dan Patten; Cindy Sinclair; John Thew

Ongoing concerns for our relatives and friends: Annattie P.; Eric; Jo; Donna Aakjar (Nancy Perry's sister); Andrew Anderson (Ruth Adotte); Jay Atkinson; Robert Battis (Leslie's father); Andrea Blacklow (Kristin Mudge's friend); Marcia Brenizer (Jen Pfaltz's mother); Denis Combes (Jason Combes' father); John Funchion; Fran and Arnold Gellman (Tina Olsen's aunt and uncle); Judy Green; Dennis Carr Hannifin (Sally Carr's son); Nathan Hazeman (friend of David Bourne); Olivia Howard (Ky Byrne's cousin); Jim Korner (Liz Wilbur's brother); Bethany Lee; Serena Livingston (Kristin Mudge); Kathy Loomis (substitute pastor); Lynne Martin (Ruth Adotte); Rick Martin (Ruth Adotte); Bill Patrick (Lyn's husband) and family; ev. Kenric and Debby Prescott; Constance Rotondo (Jane Williams); Desi Smith (Bonnie Greenwood); Ryan Sterba; Rob Thew; Sue Ellen Thomas (Pastor Erick's sister); Dennis Watlington (Tim Hitchcock); Judi Welch

Those who are grieving the families of: Jack Bowman; Kerry Garside; Stephen Getz; George Green; Jackie Hamad; The Rev. Paul Heller; Don Martin; Avery Nelson; Aaron Pelletier; Sue Pratt; Owen Simmons; Mary Sager

In the wider community: Leigh Cappabianca (missionary in Turkey); Laura Smith (missionary in Venezuela); The people of Haiti, Israel, Gaza, Ukraine - and all enduring ongoing violence; the people impacted by recent hurricanes Helene and Milton; the people of Syria, particularly the Christian community.

## **CHANCES TO LEARN, LIVE & SERVE LOVE:**

**LISTENING CIRCLES COMING SOON** - Pastor Erickl plans to gather groups of folks who would benefit from sharing - or simply listening, in a safe setting that reminds us that we are not alone. These groups, which will likely gather about six times on every other Wednesday evening starting soon in 2025, will be open to those who are feeling grief due to: the loss of a loved one,

the weight of global events, or any other significant loss or change. If you would like to learn more about these plans, please contact Pastor Erick.

**2025 Financial Support Needed** - All are invited to join in making a pledge of support for 2025 so that we can continue to serve as a beacon of hope, peace, joy and love, a place where those who need help can find it. [Click Here to Indicate Your Support for 2025](#). Automated Monthly Giving is Available! To make a pledge, you may also call the church office (860-542-5721) Tuesday through Friday, 9 AM to 2 PM.

**2024 Shortfall** - Our year-end income is lagging behind the normal level by more than \$20K. Please be sure that we have received your support. Thank you!

**Blue Christmas Tree** will remain in place for a bit, so please feel free to add an ornament in loving memory of someone or for whatever reason fits.

**Coffee Mugs "to Go"** - Anyone who purchased a custom-made coffee mug in the past is invited to take them home – thank you!

**Christmas Wreaths** on the church and chapel doors are given in memory of:  
Our parents, Robert & Dolores Wolff, and Rev. B.F. Anderson; and our grandparents the Wolff, Wellman, Moller, and Anderson families by Eric and Sue Anderson; Ted and Elisabeth Childs and Darrell and Elaine Russ by Betsy Gill; Our parents Marian and Stanley Civco and Louise and Robert Tangarone by Stan and Marie Civco; Kenneth Satherlie and Karen & Jimmy Davidson by their families; Eve Thew by John, Ann, and Rob Thew; Kathalene White by Nels and Phyllis White

**"Clothes Closet" Donations Welcome**

We would appreciate short jackets (no long coats). Thank you!

**Food Pantry Items of the Week** - This week the Food pantry especially needs: tuna fish, Spam, condiments, and empty egg cartons. Thank you!